

## In this week's Kukini



■ Hickam fire officials advise Airmen and their families to give the gift of safety during the holidays

A3

## News Notes

**Free Holiday Festival of Lights Pearl Harbor boat tours** — The National Park Service and the Navy will host the free tours tonight, tomorrow and Sunday. Boat tours will depart from the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center at 6:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. An additional 8:15 p.m. boat will be added to the Saturday and Sunday schedule. Tours are first come, first served beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call 422-2771, ext 110.

**Holiday blood drive** — The 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing is sponsoring this month's blood drive, next Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Makai Recreation Center. Walk-ins are welcome; however, appointments are highly encouraged. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 449-2048.

**Upcoming clinic closures** — The Hickam Clinic will be closed all day next Thursday (Christmas Day), Friday, Dec. 26, and January 1 (New Year's Day) and Jan. 2 to observe the holidays and PACAF Family Days. For more information, contact Capt. Justin Eder at 449-2068.

**Hickam Community Housing closure** — The HCH offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday in observance of the Christmas holiday and PACAF family day. Maintenance service will be available for emergencies. For more information, contact Bud Coleman via e-mail at bud.coleman@hickamch.com.

OPSEC reminder — Please See NEWS NOTES, A4

## We'll see you again in '09

The Kukini staff will be taking a well-deserved holiday through the second week of January. In its place for the next two Fridays, look for Military Times, an all-services publication that will be distributed to Kukini readers. Hickam Kukini will resume publication on Friday, Jan. 9, 2009. Happy holidays to all and best wishes for the New Year.

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# F-22As to deploy to Japan, Guam

13th Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials have scheduled to deploy two contingents of F-22A Raptors to the Pacific theater in January 2009 for approximately three months.

Current plans call for 12 of the fighters to deploy to Kadena Air Base, Japan, from Langley Air Force Base, Va., and another 12 to deploy to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The deployments support U.S. Pacific Command's theater security packages in the Western Pacific.

The F-22A is a transformational combat aircraft that can avoid enemy detection, cruises at supersonic speeds, is highly maneuverable, and

provides the joint force an unprecedented level of integrated situational awareness.

As part of continuing force posture adjustments to address worldwide requirements, the Defense leaders continue to deploy additional forces throughout the Western Pacific. This is the latest example of the flexibility U.S. forces have to meet their ongoing commitments and security obligations throughout the Pacific region.

U.S. Air Force photo by Scott Wolfe

**Air Force officials are scheduled to deploy two contingents of F-22A Raptors to the Pacific theater in January for approximately three months.**



# Ambitious dorm upgrades should boost Airman morale

By Chris Aguinaldo  
Special to the Kukini

Those passing by Bldg. 1852 can already see the future of dorms here at Hickam.

With a new paint job outside and recently upgraded amenities inside, the building "is our model of what we want to do with our housing," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Starry, who oversees the Unaccompanied Airmen's Dormitory.

In an upgraded room, the sergeant gestured to freshly painted walls, along with unblemished cabinets and storage areas. A clean refrigerator hummed next to clean, empty shelves.

"We get these Airmen straight out of school and want to give them the best first impression," said Sergeant Starry, who added that the Airmen's dorms are going through a \$15-million facelift.

Next to the building, he walked past a new gas grill,



Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

**Staff Sgt. Joseph Starry checks the spotless refrigerator while Sgt. Oscar Merritt examines shelves in a refreshed room inside Building 1852 at the dorms.**

which replaced an older charcoal one. He said residents enjoy cooking outside but because of regulations can't have charcoal or lighter fluid inside the dorms.

Added Sgt. Oscar Merritt, unaccompanied housing manager, "There's no smoking in here, either."

Sergeant Starry said of Bldg. 1805, which can house about 133 residents and is going through an upgrade, "It was black from age and weather. We had it cleaned and repainted."

Built in 1970, the structure is one of the oldest of the dorms and now getting refreshed. Walk inside and the carpet is

gone, replaced by tile.

"That carpet was a wreck," Sergeant Starry said. "The Army and Air Force do morning PT and things get tracked in. Now we can just mop."

He can't even imagine what the old carpet would have looked and smelled like after last week's rainy deluge.

About 60 new industrial washing machines and dryers have also been installed, replacing smaller units.

A hotel-style ice dispenser has even been installed in one of the hallways.

"We're like a luxury hotel in the Pacific," beamed the staff sergeant. "We want to give our Airmen something to take pride in."

Fostering pride in Airmen could affect their service in the long term, he added.

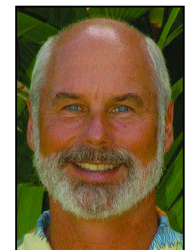
"If you take care of your people, the mission will take care of itself."

The project continues over the next several months, and Sergeant Starry said he is hopeful work will be completed sometime in the spring.

# Joint basing moved forward in 2008

By Ben Borth  
15th Mission Support Group

Two thousand eight is quickly coming to an end, and the Pearl Harbor/Hickam joint-basing team has covered a lot of territory since New Year's Day nearly a year ago. Probably the most significant milestone was OSD's



Ben Borth

delivery of the Joint Base Implementation Guidance (JBIG), which was published Jan. 22.

This guidance — released by the Deputy Secretary of Defense — laid the framework from which we would begin building our organizational constructs. It was long overdue, and frankly a bit inadequate. OSD knew that more definition was needed, so in April they published Supplemental Guidance to fill those gaps.

April also brought the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) template and associated Common Output Levels of Service (COLS). The MOA template formatted and standardized the language of the agreements that would be written between the supporting Component and the supported Component across all 12 Joint Bases.

The COLS described the level of service that would be provided by the functions delivering installation support. These two publications, along with the JBIG, allowed substantial development of the "To Be" organizations (what the joint organizations

# PACAF colonel earns Legion of Merit



**Gen. Howie Chandler (left), Pacific Air Forces commander, presents the Legion of Merit (First Oak Leaf Cluster) to Col. Michael Lewis, PACAF A6, during a ceremony held Dec. 11 in the Kenney Conference Room in the PACAF headquarters building. The colonel, who just PCSed to serve in the Office of Warfighting Integration at the Pentagon, earned the award for his leadership and many accomplishments over the past 19 months as Director of Communications for the Pacific Air Forces. In that role, Colonel Lewis was responsible for establishing policy and planning for communications systems, enterprise information management, postal matters and air traffic control and weather support for HQ PACAF and units in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, the Republic of South Korea, Japan and all other AF locations throughout the Pacific region.**

Photo by Vanessa Perez

See BASING, A4



Decking Clay Hall for the holidays



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski

Airman First Class Daniel Hatch, Pacific Air Intelligence Squadron imagery analyst, puts some finishing touches on the Christmas tree put up Tuesday at the Clay Hall lounge. Airman Hatch and several other residents spent more than two hours decorating the Clay Hall lounge with items paid for by the Air Force Civilian Advisory Committee, which donated \$400 to the project.

‘In lieu of’ tasking stretches envelope



Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith

Barrett Malone (seated), son of Tech. Sgt. William Malone, a deployed member of the 15th Medical Group, spent the day “job shadowing” Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, on Wednesday, Dec. 10. The 9-year-old Hickam Elementary student wanted to interview Colonel Tuck because he said his goal in life is to attend the Air Force Academy, fly jets and become an Air Force general. The future wing commander is shown taking a conference call from Wake Island.

Correction

On page A1 of last week’s Kukini, in a story titled ‘Rotary honors Hickam heroes,’ the name of Staff Sgt. LaNitra Higgins, 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, was misspelled in the caption. Kukini regrets this error.

Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday’s issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

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Kukini: Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

Colonel Tuck looks back at 2008

By Col. Giovanni K. Tuck  
15th Airlift Wing commander

As we reflect on the past six months since taking command, we beam with pride much like a youngster who received the gift he or she hoped for during the holiday season. We are truly humbled to be part of this world-class wing. From active-duty Airmen to our honored Guardsmen, Team Hickam members continue to make a singular difference as they represent our Air Force.

Our Professional Military Education Center of Excellence expands the imagination as it brings leadership skills and opportunities to our senior airmen and non-commissioned officers to develop our enlisted corps — the backbone of our Air Force.

Our Airmen and Family Readiness Center, which meticulously and tirelessly works to bridge the gap between our deployed Airmen and their families back home through myriad support programs, has earned our undying gratitude.

These are just a few examples and we can go on literally for pages on what great things our Airmen, civilians and families do here at Hickam to support 13th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces and Pacific Command. Living and working in paradise certainly has its advantages and it is not lost upon us that we are extremely busy and will continue to be so for quite some time.

The past year, we have witnessed our service usher in new leadership at the highest level with a focus on being “a trusted and reliable joint partner,” emphasizing our core competencies and what we bring to the fight, and a “back-to-basics” thread throughout our command. Through this transition, you have continued to hone your technical expertise, expanded your leadership horizons and remained absolutely steadfast to mis-

sion success...you have truly shined! We showcased our talents through a slew of higher-headquarters inspections to include a look at our Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program, Unit Compliance Inspection, Emergency Management Evaluation, Air Traffic Standardization and Evaluation Program, and Standardization and Evaluation Program for Weather Operations, as well as our Health Services Inspection and Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, to name a few.



Col. Giovanni K. Tuck

Then, Team Hickam literally flew into history as it delivered 100,000 pounds of food, tents, blankets and food to Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport to support earthquake victims in China. This represented the second time this year our C-17s have been called upon to support China. Earlier this year, Team Hickam members delivered 225,890 thousand pounds of winter relief supplies to 19 Chinese provinces within 18 hours of Secretary of Defense notification when China experienced its worst winter storm in the last 50 years.

But that’s not all. One of our Hickam crews flew the second C-17 to touch down in Tbilisi, returning 172 Georgian troops to their home country in the face of impending regional conflict. Our 65th Airlift Squadron’s C-37 and C-40 fleet — along with our VIPSAM specialist — supported leadership from Pacific Command and Pacific Air Forces to ensure continuity of operations while delivering real time, world-wide communications capability on time, on target. Meanwhile, with a joint focus, Hickam flawlessly supported the largest multi-

national, multi-service exercise in the Pacific — RIMPAC 2008— during which we promoted partnership and security cooperation. Wake Island, a vital Pacific waypoint which can support sister services’ aviation and surface requirements, became a Very Limited Operational status just this year.

Team Hickam, along with Air Mobility Command assets, deployed and brought home the 25th Infantry Division and rebuilt a portion of their aviation brigade on our joint apron. Today, you’ll find USMC P-3s bedded down on our field as K-Bay reconstructs its runway.

Our wing will represent PACAF as the Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century’s pilot program providing our wing with a strategic roadmap part of which we will continue to seek out opportunities to give precious time back to our Airmen.

From providing new homes to our Airmen to opening the Human Performance and Rehabilitation Center to our new ITT/Outdoor Recreation Facility to our newest addition, the Hale Aina Dining Facility, Team Hickam continues to move forward. As joint basing approaches and as we bring on new platforms such as the F-22 and the KC-135, we will not slow in improving our Airmen’s quality of work life and our families’ quality of life.

To our tenants, who deliver on their promise everyday and are a huge part of the fabric that is Team Hickam, we simply say thank you. Finally, to the men, women and families of our 15th Airlift Wing, thank you so much for what you do each and every day supporting our Air Force and this great nation. On behalf of Colonel Wolford and Command Chief Master Sgt. Westermeyer, Susie and I wish you the very best this holiday season. We are excited for what 2009 will bring and look forward to serving with you!

AF leaders extend holiday message

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley:

“The holidays give each of us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments of the past year and cherish time with our families. It is also a time to look forward to a new year of opportunities, both collectively and individually.

“Our Air Force faced difficult challenges this year and all of you responded admirably in meeting them. As a service, we renewed our focus on stewardship, accountability, precision and reliability. These are the hallmarks of our core values — integrity, serv-

ice and excellence. Each and every one of you is vitally important. Our role as trustworthy partners in today’s joint and coalition fight depends on your day-to-day contributions. We could not be more proud of all you do to demonstrate that the Air Force is “all in” and devoted to winning today’s fight while preparing for tomorrow’s challenges.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz

“During this holiday season, you can reflect with pride that many of our great nation’s Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen may safely celebrate with their families because of your contribution. The global vigilance, reach and power you collectively provide the nation are vital to our security, both at home and abroad. In the com-



Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley

ing year, we will continue to innovate the air, space and cyberspace capabilities we provide combatant commanders. You are the strength of our Air Force and its greatest asset. It is our privilege to serve with you all, and we are grateful for the support your families so faithfully provide.



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley

We recognize your service requires great sacrifice. While many Airmen will enjoy time with their families this holiday season, tens of thousands more are separated from loved ones or far from home because of their selfless service to the nation. We honor all of you, your service and your families who share in your sacrifice. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.”

Hickam: Thanks for the memories

By Jeff Nicolay  
Hickam Kukini editor

It’s been almost two years to the day that the terms “Hickam” and “Kukini” first entered my vocabulary. In December 2006, my former boss at The Honolulu Advertiser asked me to take the reins of this newspaper and oversee its transition from being an Air Force property to one operated by private industry.

Looking back 24 months later, I’m convinced accepting this assignment was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

Have to say, however, it wasn’t an easy choice for me in the first place. Before I ever showed up at Hickam’s main gate in January 2007, my military experience had pretty much been confined to the occasional Tom Clancy novel.

By virtue of (otherwise wonderful) parents who discouraged any interest in a military career at an early age combined with a post-Vietnam malaise surrounding the services during my teen years, my impression of the military was one characterized by distance and, frankly, disinterest.

At that time, I’m guessing I felt serving one’s country was something other people did. Given the arrogance of youth, I prob-

ably told myself I had loftier goals of my own to pursue.

Thank you for showing me the error of my ways.

Today, I’m thankful for the experience

I’ve had being a small part of this military community — it’s been a great ride. From day one, I was impressed by the maturity, professionalism and dedication I saw in even the youngest Airmen, as well as the beauty and historical significance of the base itself.

I was so impressed that, within a few weeks of being here, I decided I’d like to make what had been initially offered as a temporary assignment into something more permanent.

Upon achieving that (admittedly selfish) goal, I got to know many of you better in the course of my work on the Kukini and continued to be impressed by the character of Airmen of all ranks as the weeks and months passed. At the same time, I was made to feel welcome ... made to feel like I was part of this base

and its mission.

This sense of inclusion has meant a great deal to me, which makes the following so difficult.

Among the many components of military life I’ve come to be familiar with is the concept of PCSing. Fact is, my time has come, as well. So as much as I have enjoyed my tenure here over the past two years, this will be my final issue of Hickam Kukini, as I prepare to pursue other interests in the coming years.

Before I left, however, I did want to thank each of you — both for letting me be part of Hickam and its mission and for all you do in service to your country.

In equal parts, I am proud to have been able to contribute to that effort in my own small way, and humbled by the example you set as Airmen and the quality of the work you do each and every day.

From the newest airman basic on up through Colonel Tuck, General Utterback and General Chandler, you guys well and truly rock.

God bless each of you, Happy Holidays and thanks again for letting me make my small mark on this very special place. It’s been a great two years.

Aloha nui loa.



Jeff Nicolay



# Spark of holiday cheer can ignite tragedy

**By Al Balderama**  
Hickam Fire Emergency  
Services chief fire inspector

For many of us, the pine-scented aroma of the Christmas tree heralds in the Holiday Season into our homes. We embellish, we garnish and we adorn this symbol of Peace and Good Will as we celebrate the joys of the holiday season. However this tree can be an instrument of tragedy and destruction if we fail to observe prudent safety precautions.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas trees were the items first ignited in an esti-

mated average of 240 reported U.S. residential fires per year in 2003-2006. These fires caused an average of 16 deaths, 40 injuries, and \$13.1 million in direct property damage annually.

These statistics include both natural and artificial trees. Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structural fires caused by Christmas trees.

The holiday season is a time for joyous celebration and reflection of the blessings we have enjoyed during the year. To ensure the safety of your love ones, the men and women of the Hickam Fire Emergency Services offer these simple fire

safety guidelines to assure that you keep that spark of holiday cheer from igniting tragedy in your home.

### Selecting a tree

When purchasing a natural-cut tree, buy the freshest possible. Select one that has a strong scent of pine or spruce, is deep green in color and has needles that don't fall off at the touch. Make a diagonal cut two inches from the bottom of the trunk and immediately place the tree in a stable stand filled with water. Place the tree in a sturdy container away from heat sources, exit paths or door-

ways, and keep it watered!

If you decide to purchase an artificial tree, look for the label that designates it as flame resistant and always follow all manufacturer's safety instructions.

### Decorating

Hickam Fire and Emergency Services officials remind you to inspect light strings for cracked sockets and frayed, bare, or loose wires. Look for the holographic UL (Underwriters Laboratories) label on light strings and electrical decorations. The UL label means that



Photo courtesy of Hickam Fire Emergency Services

**On average, one of every 15 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in death. Hickam fire officials urge Airmen and their families to exercise caution this holiday season with respect to Christmas decorations.**

**See SAFETY, A6**

# Reservists may qualify for early retired pay

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS) — Department of Defense officials here have issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of the Reserve components.

Instead of having to wait until age 60 to receive Reserve retired pay, eligible members may receive retired pay prior to age 60 but not before age 50.

Under interim changes to Department of Defense Instruction 1215.07, Service Credit for Reserve Retirement, issued under a law passed by Congress effective Jan. 28, 2008, Reserve component members are able to reduce the age at which they are eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year.

Under the new law, members eligible to receive retired

pay earlier than age 60 must still wait until age 60 to receive health-care benefits.

Involuntary mobilization and voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualify, but there is no requirement to be involuntarily mobilized, to support a contingency or to serve on active duty outside the continental United States to receive credit under the law.

Most active-duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. It does not matter whether active-duty time is paid for under military or reserve personnel appropriation accounts, provided such active duty is performed under the authority of 10 U.S. Code § 12301 (d).

Also included is full-time National Guard duty served under a call to active service by

a governor and authorized by the president or the secretary of Defense under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) for purposes of responding to either a national emergency declared by the president or a national emergency supported by federal funds.

Other time served on active duty is not creditable service for purposes of reducing retired pay age

All Airmen are encouraged to ensure their orders specify the statutory provision under which their active-duty service is performed. Airmen are also encouraged to keep track of their active-duty service and orders to ensure they receive proper credit and they meet the cumulative 90-day thresholds to reduce retirement age.

More information is available on the Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site at [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil).

## BASING, From A1

would look like).

July was a big month. First, we transitioned both base commanders within a week of each other. Colonel Tuck replaced outgoing wing commander Colonel Torres, and Captain Kitchens replaced outgoing Pearl Harbor base commander Captain Skardon. Less than seven days later, both commanders were charged with briefing the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam status at the first Joint Base Implementation Review Conference (IRC) held at McChord AFB. The conference was chaired by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Mr. Wayne Army, and was attended by all senior members of the team who wrote the guidance and

established the COLS. It was a great opportunity to discuss questions and concerns we had about Joint Basing. While the briefings were informative, we gained a lot of insight during the breaks when we could buttonhole the experts and pick their brains.

October brought the second IRC, held in San Antonio, where we received more guidance from OSD and received insight and lessons learned from the five installations included in first round of Joint Basing. There was considerable discussion about airfield operations, which was identified as an installation-support function in the JBIG. However, Air Force senior leadership made a compelling argument that Airfield Operations is a core Air Force

competency for warfighting and should not be considered an installation support function.

The tempo only seems to be increasing. As we prepare for the holidays, we realize that much work is ahead of us. We will be finalizing a manpower analysis and documenting operational costs that, together, will form the basis of the manpower and Total Obligation Authority (TOA) transfer from 15 AW to the joint base. We still have analyses on our facilities to conduct, an environmental assessment of our real property to evaluate, a complete listing of personal property and plant equipment to document, and a host of other activities.

Yes, it has been a very busy year.

## News Notes

### Continued from page A1

keep Operations security in mind at all times. Shred info when no longer needed. Use caution when discussing

information openly. Increase use of secure phones. When in doubt, use secure communication — anything on NIPR can be viewed. If required to bug-out, secure

all classified information. DO NOT confirm or deny critical information. Direct all media questions to the 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at 449-2490.

SAFETY, From A3

engineers have tested the product for safety hazards.

If you’re decorating outside, also be sure that all decorations and extension cords have been rated for outdoor use. Lights intended for indoor use have a green holographic UL label. Light strings intended for indoor or outdoor use have a red holographic UL label.

**After Christmas**

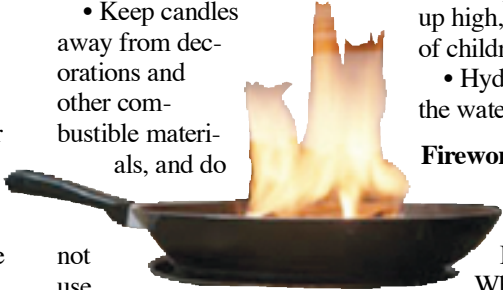
Remove the tree from your home when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

“As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart,” said Assistant Chief George Crowder. “A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can

grow large very quickly.”

**Other Holiday Safety Tips:**

- Practice your fire escape plan with your family and guests.
- Test your smoke alarms.
- Inspect your fire extinguisher for serviceability.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for hol-



iday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.

- Be cautious of deep-fat fryers; boilovers and oil spills can lead to large, uncontrollable fires.
- After a party, always check furniture and trash cans for smoldering cigarette butts.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children.
- Hydrate your tree; check the water level daily.

**Fireworks Safety**

Fireworks on Hickam Air Force Base are prohibited. Where permitted, use fireworks outdoors only. Obey the laws. Always have water handy (charged water hose with a nozzle or buckets of water). Read and follow all warnings and instructions. Only use fireworks as intended. Don’t try to alter them or combine them. Never re-light a “dud” firework (wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).

Crime Scene

**Theft of personal property**

An active-duty E-5 assigned to USMC reported theft of personal property on Melia Place. The case is currently under investigation.

**Theft of personal property**

An active-duty E-5 assigned to 15 CONS reported theft of personal property on 17th Street. The case is currently under investigation.

**Damage to personal property**

An active-duty E-5 assigned to JPAC reported damage of personal property from the long-term parking lot adjacent to Bldg. 2140/C-17 Squadron. The case is currently under investigation.

**Damage to personal property**

An active-duty E-7

assigned to PACAF reported damage of personal property on Aloalo Street. The case is currently under investigation.

**Citation total for the week**

10 Civilian traffic citations  
16 Moving traffic citations  
8 Non-moving traffic citations.





Kadena Airmen take part in Japanese cultural ceremony

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS) — Several Kadena Air Base Airmen participated in a traditional Japanese New Year celebration at the conclusion of a week-long training exercise Dec. 12 at Japan Air Self Defense Force’s Chitose Air Base in Hokkaido, Japan.

Five of the approximately 70 Kadena AB Airmen training at the Japanese base participated in a Mochitsuki ceremony alongside their Japanese counterparts and local distinguished visitors.

The word “Mochitsuki” directly translates to “rice pounding,” which is exactly what the ceremony entails. Two people participate in the actual making of mochi. One

person pounds the cooked rice and water mixture with a wooden mallet and the other wets and rotates the mochi. The result is a sticky rice that is then used to make various food dishes.

The Mochitsuki ceremony is a traditional way to give thanks for a safe and healthy year and prepare for good luck next year, said Japanese Col. Iwamoto Shinichi, the JASDF 2nd Wing’s Operations Group commander.

“This ceremony gives thanks for a successful aircraft training relocation that provided us safe and efficient joint training,” the colonel said.

Throughout the aircraft training relocation, Airmen focused on their mission to enhance interoperability of U.S. and Japanese air forces while forming friendships with their JASDF counterparts.

C-17 revolutionizing logistics in Anarctica

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (AFNS) — Airmen assigned to the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron supporting Operation Deep Freeze completed the first operational C-17 Globemaster III airdrop to the Antarctic Gamburtsev Mountain Province Nov. 26.

Thirty bundles of fuel and other supplies were delivered to a scientific camp in the province, one of the most

remote locations on Earth.

Capt. Joe O’Rourke, a 7th Airlift Squadron pilot deployed to ODF, helped develop the missions. He said the airdrop was a quick and efficient way to deliver resources to the camp, better than any other method available.

“Without our delivery of that fuel, these scientists who are trekking out to the campsite from the South Pole would have had to carry that fuel with them, or a second trip would have been necessary from McMurdo Station over land carrying literally thousands of

gallons of fuel,” he said.

In just three hours, Airmen delivered what would take days or weeks to accomplish through any other means.

Congress OKs paternity leave

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Eligible Airmen are now authorized 10 days of non-chargeable paternity leave following the birth of their new-borns, courtesy of the 2009 Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act

passed by Congress.

The law applies to married, active-duty Airmen.

The Airman’s wife must have given birth to the child on or after Oct. 14, 2008.

“This is going to have a positive impact on our Air Force families,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Britt, the Directorate of Personnel Services Special Programs superintendent. “By giving our new dads more time to bond with mom and baby, we’re building a stronger Air Force family.”

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.

Kadena Airmen pound mochi



Courtesy photo

Senior Master Sgt. Tony Mills takes a turn pounding rice during a traditional Japanese New Year Mochitsuki ceremony Dec. 12 at the Japan Air Self Defense Force’s Chitose Air Base. Sergeant Mills is assigned to the 13th Air Force, Det. 1. He and about 70 Airmen from the 18th Wing participated in a bilateral training event with the JASDF’s 2nd Air Wing as part of the Aviation Training Relocation program.